

# New RCGP safeguarding standards



[rcgp.org.uk/safeguarding](https://rcgp.org.uk/safeguarding)

# Why are safeguarding standards needed?



## Good medical practice



“Safeguarding children and adults who are at risk of harm

You must consider the needs and welfare of people (adults, children and young people) who may be vulnerable, and offer them help if you think their rights are being abused or denied. You must follow our more detailed guidance on Protecting children and young people and 0-18 years: guidance for all doctors.

You must act promptly on any concerns you have about a patient – or someone close to them – who may be at risk of abuse or neglect, or is being abused or neglected.”

- GMC Good Medical Practice 2024, paragraphs 41 & 42

# New RCGP Safeguarding standards

- ▶ Launched October 2024
- ▶ Cover the whole life course
- ▶ Adult and child safeguarding knowledge and capabilities are equally necessary and expected for all staff in general practice, even if the staff member only works with adults
- ▶ Include Levels 1 - 3
- ▶ Includes all staff working in any general practice setting in the UK, including:
  - ▶ NHS GP practices
  - ▶ Independent and online providers of general practice services
  - ▶ Primary Care Networks (PCNs)
  - ▶ GP Out of Hours and Extended Access services
- ▶ **REPLACE** previous safeguarding training requirements for GPs and all general practice staff which were set out in the intercollegiate documents:
  - ▶ Adult Safeguarding: Roles and Competencies for Health Care Staff
  - ▶ Safeguarding children and young people: roles and competencies for healthcare staff
- ▶ Safeguarding training requirements for Gp trainees **REMAIN THE SAME**

# Aims of the RCGP safeguarding standards

- ▶ To set professional safeguarding standards for GPs and anyone working in general practice that are:
  - ▶ Focused on the needs and voice of victims and survivors of abuse.
  - ▶ Focused on the specific skills, knowledge and expertise that GPs and general practice staff have.
  - ▶ Relevant to the resources and context of general practice.
  - ▶ Related to the role of GPs and general practice staff who provide universal health services to the whole population.
  - ▶ Mindful of the welfare and wellbeing of GPs and general practice staff, and the impact being involved in safeguarding work can have on emotional wellbeing.
  - ▶ Take into account the current significant and sustained pressure on general practice whilst also acknowledging the same pressures faced by our safeguarding partner agencies.

## The RCGP safeguarding standards are built on 5 key areas of safeguarding knowledge and capabilities

1. Professional safeguarding responsibilities
2. Identification of abuse and neglect
3. Responding to abuse and neglect
4. Documenting safeguarding concerns and information
5. Information sharing and multiagency working



LEVEL	STAFF GROUPS
Level 1	<p>Applies to the following staff (and equivalent roles):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Receptionists, administrative and secretarial staff (with the exception of manager/lead roles of these groups who will need Level 2)</li> <li>• Volunteer staff</li> </ul>
Level 2	<p>Applies to the following staff (and equivalent roles):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice managers (including deputy managers) and equivalent leadership roles [ALSO SEE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THIS GROUP]</li> <li>• Care navigators</li> <li>• Reception managers</li> <li>• Safeguarding administrators</li> <li>• Managers/leads of administrative/secretarial teams</li> <li>• Health Care Assistants, Pharmacy technicians</li> </ul>
Level 3	<p>Applies to the following staff (and equivalent roles):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GPs, practice nurses, physician associates, pharmacists, paramedics, Advance Care Practitioners, Advance Nurse Practitioners, social prescribers, mental health workers, physiotherapists, podiatrists, dieticians, all ARRS (Additional Roles Reimbursement Scheme) roles</li> <li>• Primary Care Network (PCN) safeguarding roles in England such as PCN safeguarding co-ordinators</li> <li>• GP Trainees [who should refer to the specific safeguarding training requirements for the WBPA part of the MRCGP exams ]</li> </ul>

Level	Safeguarding training requirements summary All updates should be aligned to the RCGP safeguarding standards. Updates could be face-to-face, virtual or a recorded update.
Level 1	INDUCTION ANNUALLY <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Level 1 safeguarding update</li></ul>
Level 2	INDUCTION ANNUALLY <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Level 2 safeguarding update</li></ul>
Level 3	INDUCTION ANNUALLY <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Level 3 safeguarding update</li></ul> AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Engage in safeguarding learning and reflection<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• across the breadth of the five areas of knowledge and capabilities (over time)</li><li>• Could be demonstrated using the new RCGP safeguarding templates - these can support appraisal and revalidation</li><li>• Should cover both child and adult safeguarding, including practitioners who only work with adults</li></ul></li></ul>



# Additional knowledge, capabilities and training requirements

- ▶ Practice Managers
  - ▶ Additional knowledge and capabilities
- ▶ GP Practice Safeguarding Leads
  - ▶ Person specifics
  - ▶ Additional knowledge and capabilities
  - ▶ Additional training requirements

# Safeguarding Hub

Welcome to the RCGP Safeguarding Hub. Here you will find a multitude of resources focused on safeguarding in general practice. The new RCGP Safeguarding Standards are at the heart of the hub, and a 15 minute podcast offers an overview of these standards, the intentions behind them, and how they can be implemented in general practice. The safeguarding hub has a variety of materials to help support you in adopting these standards and developing your practice. The RCGP Safeguarding toolkit is a comprehensive document which can be dipped into when you are looking for specific information, and the easy access to 'Key questions in safeguarding' section is designed to facilitate this. The toolkit also provides a useful structure to systematically develop your professional knowledge and skills in the area of safeguarding. Two structured templates are provided to help you demonstrate reflective practice, and are particularly helpful in the context of appraisal and revalidation. Finally, there are four eLearning modules. Three of these form the 'Core safeguarding in general practice (level 3)' course and are built around the five key areas of safeguarding knowledge and capabilities as set out in the RCGP Safeguarding Standards. These are designed to equip you with the core understanding of these five areas of safeguarding knowledge and capabilities that you need to safeguard children and adults effectively. One further module goes on to look at safeguarding people with a vulnerability to radicalisation.

Course: Safeguarding  
Hub | RCGP Learning



# Podcast

- ▶ Overview of the standards and resources and how these can be implemented in general practice.
- ▶ 15 minutes!



# Key questions in safeguarding

1. How do I know if a child or adult is being abused or neglected?
2. What do I do if I am concerned a child or adult is being abused or neglected?
3. I need safeguarding advice - who can I ask?
4. I'm not sure if I should share information
5. How do I document safeguarding concerns in the patient record?
6. What local knowledge do I need to safeguard my patients?
7. What safeguarding training do I need?
8. I am new to UK general practice - what do I need to know about safeguarding?
9. How do I use the RCGP safeguarding toolkit?



# New RCGP safeguarding toolkit

- ▶ One toolkit covering child and adult safeguarding and all aspects of safeguarding in general practice.
- ▶ ‘One stop shop’ for safeguarding in general practice.
- ▶ Matched to the 5 key areas of the safeguarding standards.
- ▶ Can be used in different ways.
- ▶ Not prescriptive - sets out principles and guidance for safeguarding in general practice. A tool for you to use as you need.



# Some key highlights of the toolkit

- ▶ Identifying child and adult abuse
- ▶ Responding to child and adult abuse
- ▶ Template to support induction and local safeguarding knowledge.
- ▶ Co-badged document with Centre of expertise on child sexual abuse: Talking about child sexual abuse: tackling professional concerns
- ▶ Domestic abuse section - focus on understanding and responding to different levels of risk.
- ▶ Focus on assessing mental capacity including executive capacity in complex situations.
- ▶ Transitional safeguarding
- ▶ Safeguarding in the independent sector.
- ▶ Updated safeguarding documentation/coding resource.
- ▶ Information sharing resource developed with ICO input.



## Talking about child sexual abuse: tackling professional concerns

Talking to patients about child sexual abuse, whether they are children, young people, adults, parents or carers, can seem daunting, but being ready to have that conversation can make a huge difference. As professionals, we can have lots of concerns such as feeling we don't have enough experience, we haven't had any specialised training, we might say something wrong or we might upset a child or their parents unnecessarily. It is important to remember that in general practice, we are not expected to be specialists in child or adult abuse. Rather we use the skills we already have to help us identify abuse and respond effectively as part of our holistic patient care. This guide aims to tackle some of the professional concerns around talking about child sexual abuse.

“Sexual abuse is not an act or an incident but the corruption of a relationship. (1)”

Professional concern	Reality
I can't talk about child sexual abuse as I haven't had training and I might get it wrong	<p>As a GP or general practice clinician, you are already trained, and have experience, in having difficult conversations.</p> <p>You already have the skills required to talk about child sexual abuse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Relationship-building</li><li>• Empathy</li></ul>

# Templates to support safeguarding learning and reflection

- ▶ Safeguarding case review - Structured template
- ▶ Safeguarding Reflective Practice - Structured Template



## Core safeguarding in general practice (Level 3)

Safeguarding is an integral part of working in general practice in the UK and is simply one aspect of the holistic care we give our patients. GPs and all staff in general practice play an essential role in safeguarding children and adults from abuse and neglect. There are five key areas of safeguarding knowledge and capabilities as set out in the RCGP Safeguarding Standards. The aim of the three 'Core safeguarding in general practice (Level 3)' eLearning modules is to equip you with the core understanding of these five areas of safeguarding knowledge and capabilities that you need to safeguard children and adults effectively.



# RCGP Virtual Safeguarding Training Days

## Level 3

# Questions

The background features abstract, overlapping geometric shapes in various shades of blue, ranging from light sky blue to deep navy blue. These shapes are primarily located on the right side of the frame, creating a modern, layered effect against the white background.